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The Art Essay Of The Mongols

- What is this Painting, Who made it and what was the context behind it

This art by the famous historian of Iran named Rashid al-Din Hamadani. It is about the history book he made about the Mongols in 1277. The painting is the Mongols fighting the Song Dynasty. The paint is saying the Mongols are doing a river cross with horses to attack the Song and then they would attack the Main City of the Song Dynasty. The purpose of this research paper is to understand ancient history through the understanding of Central Asian Art. Rashid al-Din Hamadani was born in 1247 just after the Mongols took the Main City of the Song Dynasty.

- Who is he, What did he do and what did he become

He grew to a historian, writer, and artist too, Rashid had other professions, but we will be focusing on the ones that are relevant to this research paper. Rashid would write about the Mongols after they invaded Iran. He would do art of the Mongols for his books about them. To make sure that the viewer of the book would understand the visuals about what the Mongols looked like, how the acted, and what they did after they would conquer the land they invaded. The history book he made was called Jami' al Tawarikh. It was about many histories of many other cultures, but we will focus on Mongol history and culture. He would write about the Mongols invading countries like Korea, China, and other Asian Countries. They would conquer many lands of Asia and rule them. According to the Khalili Foundation He was Son of a Jewish Family turn to Islam. He wrote many Historical works, from being a powerful vizier in the Mongol court. He took many scriptoriums from many other places that's where Jami' al Tawarikh.

- "At the heart of this story is Rashid al-Din Fadlallah, a man whose life embodied the cultural crossroads of his time. Born into a Jewish family in Hamadan, Rashid al-Din converted to Islam and rose to become a powerful vizier in the Mongol Ilkhanid court. His diverse background and insatiable curiosity drove him to create one of the most ambitious historical works of the medieval era. Imagine a scriptorium where scholars pored over texts in Latin, Arabic, Persian, Syriac, Mongolian, Chinese, and Sanskrit. Picture artists studying Christian Gospels, Jewish Old Testaments, and Chinese handscrolls to create illustrations that would resonate across cultural boundaries. This was the reality of the Rab'-i Rashidi, Rashid al-Din's grand complex in Tabriz where the Jami' al-Tawarikh took shape." Kahlil #1-3 March 18th, 2025. This proves of how Rashid would teach history and how he did it was through art and books.

- The Physical Tactics of the Mongols

This Source is from the Ate.Easia.Columbia about the Mongols. The Mongol tactics of being at war with their enemy. They will be talking about their tactics when it came to physical fights during the Mongols invasion.

- How they used their tactics in Battle

The Mongolian nomadic warriors use the tactics of speed during fights. Mongols used this many times when they were outnumbered in many battles. They would run fast one their horses distracting the enemy then killing them. They would also use the skilled cavalry to make the enemy run for a while at the Mongols.

- How would this work making them be successful in battle

This would leave the enemy disoriented when the Mongols attacked them. Making the enemy less able to attack when the Mongols attacking them when signaled to attack. This would lead them to have brutal victories in their major favor. According to Warfare History Network "The Mongols were not accustomed to being outnumbered. As nomadic warriors they traveled fast, in huge columns of superbly skilled cavalry, often separated by many miles but knit together by an intricate system of signal fires, smoke signals, and flags, and a gigantic camel-mounted kettledrum to sound the charge. They were used to coordinating their forces on small settlements or camps whose residents could not move with anything like the same speed or decisiveness. The Mongols were interested not in a fair fight, but a victorious one." Network #1-3 This proves that the tactic that the Mongols were using were effective to the enemy they were fighting at the time when they were invading many countries.

- How the Mongols helped people they rule

According to Another part of the afe.easia.columbia they talk about how the Mongols would rule their territories, what they do there, how they help to bring their conquered lands back together to actually be thriving city. The Mongols would allow once their conquered the territories would allow freedom of religion. The Mongols would allow the Muslims in the west China would have to practice their religion and rule some of the government in the Mongol territory that was there in the western China. The Mongols would also rule with a Chinese style of government to make sure the people were properly governed to fit their style of culture. They would allow the Chinese of the area to govern with the Mongols who ruled and governed the place. This place is Modern day Xingjang, once ruled under the song Dynasty but now belongs to the Mongol empire in 1279. How they would play a role by helping bring back many of the lands they rule to be great thriving cities after the war and ruling was done. The Mongols make sure that markets in the city were able to sell their products to the people in the city that way. The Mongols would use

taxes to help the peasants who do farming. The Mongols start programs for the farming peasants to help them grow and expand their farms making sure they also expand their food and sale to the marketplace so that way they can make money. The Mongols would also help make protect and escort the foods and sales from the farm and to the market to help protect the farmers and sellers from the Chinese rebels. They would also use taxes to help farmers to store food and sales, to prepare for famines caused by weather, droughts, and/or fighting. According to afe.easia.columbia they talk about what life was like during the rule of the Mongols said,

- ” Islam, for example, was well supported, and the Mongols built quite a number of mosques in China. The Mongols also recruited and employed Islamic financial administrators — a move that led to good relations with the Islamic world beyond China, in particular with Persia and West Asia. [Also see The Mongols' Mark on Global History: Relations with Islam]. The Mongols gave strong support to the peasants and peasant economy of China, believing that the success of the peasant economy would bring in additional tax revenues and ultimately benefit the Mongols themselves. Relief measures — including tax remissions, as well as granaries for the storage of surplus grain — were thus provided for peasant farmers in North China, in the areas that had been devastated during the war between the Mongols and the Chinese. And early in their reign, in 1262, the Mongols prohibited the nomads' animals from roaming in the farmlands and thereby undermining the peasant economy. The Mongols also sought to help the peasants organize themselves and initiated a cooperative rural organization — a self-help organization comprising about 50 households under the direction of a village leader. These rural cooperatives had as their principle purpose the stimulation of agricultural production and the promotion of land reclamation. The village/cooperative leader had the task of guiding and helping his organization through everything from farming, planting trees, and opening up barren areas, to improving measures for flood control and increasing silk production. In addition, the cooperatives conducted a periodic census and assisted in surveillance over recalcitrant Chinese and other possible saboteurs of Mongol rule. They also served as a kind of charity granary to assist the unfortunate during poor harvests or droughts, providing food and other supplies to orphans, widows, and the elderly. The Mongols also devised a fixed system of taxation for the peasants. Rather than having to anticipate unpredictable and extraordinary levies, as in the past system they had much resented, peasants under the Mongol system could know exactly how much would be required of them.” Columbia #4-. This proves of how the Mongols would govern the people who they rule and gave them some religious freedom.

- The Psychological Warfare of the Mongols

TOTA is another source of information to tell the tactics of the mongols during their warfare. We are going to talk about how they would use psychological warfare against their enemies. We are also going to talk about how the Mongols trained their soldiers to fight for the empire. The Mongols had put mountains of skulls to make their enemies fear the Mongols. This would work to make them surrender to the Mongols which worked.

- How they use those tactics to win

The Mongols used tactics of their horseman who had bows and swords to chase the enemy in large numbers to try to scare them off this way they can surrender easily to make the Mongols win. The Mongols would train their soldiers at 3 years old and then would make them train on horses with bows at their teens to make them skilled warriors. The Mongols they trained became skilled warriors by the age of 16. The warriors would also be fast and mobile, leading them to live off the lands their conquered that way they don't need to rely on high amounts of supplies.

- "He destroyed the Naiman Tribe, the last tribe to oppose him, and was named Genghis Khan—Khan was a title meaning ruler.[3] Having defeated his rivals and united his people, Genghis reorganized them for war.[4] It was a common practice for the Mongols to put the bones of their enemies in pyramids to send a message to their potential or current enemies. [5] The Mongols were nomadic and cultivated fierce independence. Each soldier was required to maintain their own equipment and be able to operate independently of supply lines and a higher command structure. Genghis organized the army into units of ten thousand under a general called a Tumen. Each unit was further subdivided into units of one hundred and finally squads of ten.[6] Not only did this afford the army enormous flexibility and adaptability, but the soldiers were unusually disciplined, well-trained, and well-equipped. Mongol soldiers began their training at age three, when their mothers tied them into a horse's saddle until they could ride by themselves. At age five, they were taught how to shoot and practiced until they turned

sixteen when they would be considered a fully-realized warrior.[7] During their training, they learned how to ride for days without stopping, sleeping in the saddle and hunting in the dead of winter when temperatures routinely dip below -22ºF (30ºC).[8] The nomadic lifestyle not only made ferociously tough warriors, but it also made the entire population fast and mobile, able to exist off the land and eliminating the need for large, vulnerable supply lines." TOTA #3-8 This proves that how they would use psychological warfare to their advantage to win. This proves how the Mongols would win by training their soldiers with very skilled training by shooting arrows, horse riding, and to endure harsh conditions.

- How they would their tactics to win many battles to conquer others

There is another citation about the Mongols battling from the Warfare History Network. The Mongols fight the Chinese, Indians, and Iraqis with strategy. The Mongols go far away with bow cavalry then fire far away at the enemy to confuse them and allow them to gather in a circle while the Mongols would charge and attack the enemy when they were fighting at Xi Xia. This was great when the Mongols are outnumbered when they would invade Xi Xia near the capital of Zhongxing.

- How they used the tactics to fight the enemy that outnumbered them

The Mongols beat the 150,000 army of Xi Xia they would spread out and catch them my surprise with their army tactics signal waves to make sure when they could attack like flanking them at different times, areas, and directions of attack. They would also do these tactics to siege them by being set up far away and fire a wave of arrows to the enemy castle, overwhelming them and making them give up easily. They would loot burn and build it back up after they would win. According to Warfare History Network They talk about how effect these tactics were and made them easily when they fight. "The Mongols attacked the Xi Xia in 1209, first taking the border settlements north of the Yellow River. The 75,000 Mongol invaders faced an army of 150,000 Xi Xia troops near their capital at Zhongxing. The Xi Xia had stationed 100,000 armored pikemen and crossbowmen in large phalanxes in the center of the battle line, with 25,000 Tangut cavalry on each wing. The Mongols were not accustomed to being outnumbered. As nomadic warriors they traveled fast, in huge

columns of superbly skilled cavalry, often separated by many miles but knit together by an intricate system of signal fires, smoke signals, and flags, and a gigantic camel-mounted kettledrum to sound the charge. They were used to coordinating their forces on small settlements or camps whose residents could not move with anything like the same speed or decisiveness. The Mongols were interested not in a fair fight, but a victorious one.

- In the Xi Xia, however, they ran into an opponent who fought much the same way they did. The Mongols had taken extensive casualties in an earlier battle with the Xi Xia pikemen by charging their pike wall; they were determined to not repeat the mistake. The Mongol light cavalry rode parallel to the Chinese pikemen and crossbowmen, firing thousands of arrows into them while other Mongol forces fought with Tangut cavalry on the flanks. The Mongol and Tangut cavalry also rode parallel to each other, firing thousands of arrows and inflicting innumerable casualties on each side. Each side's cavalry feigned retreat, but the other side wouldn't fall for the ruse. Finally, the Mongols attacked the Tangut cavalry with their heavy cavalry. The Tangut cavalry broke and ran, leaving the huge phalanxes of the Xi Xia pikemen vulnerable to attack. The Chinese pikemen had formed a giant rectangle that faced in all directions, and they took repeated volleys of arrows that inflicted great damage while the Mongols themselves stayed mostly out of range of the Chinese crossbows. After the Xi Xia pikemen lost unit cohesion, the Mongol heavy cavalry attacked the remaining demoralized and exhausted Chinese from all sides to finish them off." Warfare History Network 2022 #2-3 This proves how the Mongols would win using tactics at the right time. Leading them to have win when going up against the Xi Xia empire. This would lead to them ruling Xingjang and making sure they have other victories against other opponents no matter what environment. Many of their tactics played a Key role in how they captured Xingjang. They were such a powerful force that they would thrive in any environment they were in when they were fighting. This would lead to a victory of Xingjang and the enemy would be confused of how they would win so easily.

- How did the Mongols and Chinese Govern the Province together

The Asian Society also talks about how the Mongols would govern with the Chinese of Xingjang and how they would work together to govern, enforce the laws, and rule the territory of the Song Dynasty after they took over the Xingjang when they fought the Song Dynasty. The Mongols fight the Song Dynasty during 1279 and then took the province Xingjang and the Song Dynasty

surrendered. This was a siege done by the Mongols to get the Song Dynasty to join the Mongols. The Mongols would also work together with the Chinese to govern XingJang.

- How did they work together to write laws

The Mongols would have laws made with the Chinese in their government. Though they had treated the Chinese differently in the law, Mongols were seen as a higher legal status than the Chinese living there. The way the Mongols enforced the law was by working together with the Chinese to make and enforce them to make sure that the laws were good for the society for both parties. The Mongols helped the farmers by creating the Officer for Stimulation of Agriculture. They would allow the Muslims the freedom of religion, Culture, and the right to participate in the government. The Asian Society says about how the Mongols would govern the Chinese with the help of the Chinese work together to govern the place.

- “Genghis Khan moved his troops into the quasi-Chinese Chin-ruled north China in 1211, and in 1215 they destroyed the capital city. Hisson Ogodei conquered all of North China by 1234 and ruled it from 1229 to 1241. Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai Khan, defeated the Chinese Southern Song in 1279, and for the first time all of China was under foreign rule. In 1271 Kublai Khan named his dynasty Yuan which means "origin of the universe." The Yuan dynasty in China lasted from 1279 to 1368. Kublai Khan followed a tentative policy of Sinicization, that is, he adapted to the Chinese way of governing and when you look at his portrait, he looks very much like other Chinese rulers. On the other hand, although he used some Chinese in low positions in the government, he abolished the civil service exams, preferred to use Chinese in his bureaucracy and established separate rules for the Mongols and for the Chinese. His capital, present-day Beijing, became a cosmopolitan and wealthy city. Kublai Khan made a census of the population, dividing the people intofour categories: Mongols; Miscellaneous aliens (which included West Asian Muslims who performed important services for the Mongols); North Chinese called Han people, those who had been under the Chin state and their descendants, including Chinese, Jurchen, Khitans and Loreans; and finally Southern Chinese, subjects of the Southern Sung, whom the Mongols considered the least trustworthy. The Mongols could not have ruled China without the help of some of the Chinese elite and yet they were reluctant to use the Chinese, particular the Southern Song, in their government. Although Genghis Khan used some Chinese in lower positions in his government, he abolished the civil service exams, kept separate laws for Mongols and for the Chinese,

and preferred to employ foreigners rather than Chinese in his bureaucracy as he thought they would be more trustworthy than the Chinese. Kublai Khan wanted to support agriculture, and he created an Office for Stimulation of Agriculture. Although many of his people wanted to establish the herding way of life inside the wall, in 1262 he passed an edict prohibiting the nomads' animals from roaming on farm land. He filled grain storage areas in case of future famines, especially in the north where lands had been damaged by constant fighting. The capital had 58 granaries which stored 145,000 shih (one shih = 133 lbs). Marco Polo said he fed 30,000 poor people every day in the capital. He organized the farmers into groups called she. Each she was composed of 50 families. They were encourage to do self-help projects like planting trees, working on irrigation and flood control, stocking rivers and lakes with fish, and promoting silk production. They were to monitor their own members and reward those who worked well and punish those who were lazy. The she also helped the censor watch over the people. It promoted education in better agricultural techniques and basic literacy." Asia Society #1-3. This proves of how the Mongols and Chinese had a system style government similar to each other to make the society livable.

- The Conclusion of Culture and war with the Mongols

The art all around is the express how the culture of military tactics plays a role in military battle. This also plays a role in modern history and how it is written from a ancient perspective. Rashid knew that using visuals for history books was the most important thing to understand what the reader needed to know about what the reader was talking about. This would also make It a portrayal of they Mongols did during the time before Rashid was alive to after his death. This gives us visuals of what people witness, thought, and read to show others the cultures of what they seen during their time of the time it was happening when they Mongols invaded them.

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